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Carter Repudiates Staff's Charge That Bush Got CIA Post in Political Payoff

BY KENNETH REICH
Times Political Writer

PLAINS, Ga.—Jimmy Carter said Friday that a member of his staff had made "a serious mistake" in releasing a memorandum naming Central Intelligence Agency Director George Bush as among those appointed in political payoffs by the Ford Administration.

Carter said he had never seen the memorandum before its release and that in Bush's case he did not agree with it. "As a matter of fact, I happen to think a lot of George Bush," he said.

The Democratic presidential candidate's statement about what has come to be an embarrassing episode for him was made on a day that California Gov. Brown left here with warm statements of support for Carter and the right to approve or disapprove of Carter's choice for California campaign coordinator this fall.

Also on Friday, Carter supported the views of his vice presidential running mate, Sen. Walter F. Mondale of Minnesota, about FBI Director Lawrence M. Kelley. Carter said that

he, too, thought Kelley "has not gotten adequate control over his organization." Under the circumstances, he said, this is "almost unforgivable."

The incident involving Bush and what Carter described Friday as "an intrastaff memorandum" occurred Wednesday in Atlanta just before Carter addressed the annual convention of the American Bar Assn.

A Los Angeles Times reporter was standing at the back of the press section before the speech talking to Carter's press secretary, Jody Powell, when another Carter staff member approached with what appeared to be a large number of mimeographed statements.

Powell glanced at them and said to the reporter, "Oh, this is an addendum to the speech." The reporter accordingly took one of the two-page papers, which was entitled, "Support for certain statements in ABA speech."

It was only many hours later that the reporter learned that the "addendum" had not been distributed to other reporters—and that Powell had learned it was not meant to be.

The memorandum, among other things, listed 19 names to back up a statement by Carter, in the course of his ABA address, that "regulatory agencies and other important government positions are still used as dumping grounds for unsuccessful candidates, faithful political partisans, out-of-favor White House aides and representatives of special interests."

Under the first category—"dumping ground for unsuccessful candidates"—were listed Peter H. Dominick, defeated for reelection to the U.S. Senate from Colorado and appointed by President Ford as ambassador to Switzerland; Thomas S. Kleppe, defeated for election to the Senate from North Dakota and appointed by Ford as secretary of the interior; Richard L. Roudebush, defeated for election to the Senate from Indiana and appointed by Ford to the Veterans Administration; Bush, defeated for election to the Senate from Texas and appointed by President Richard M. Nixon as ambassador to the United Nations and ambassador

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to China and by Ford as director of the CIA; Jack M. Eckerd, defeated for election to the Senate from Florida and appointed by Ford as administrator of the General Services Administration; and Marlow W. Cook, defeated for reelection to the Senate from Kentucky and appointed by Ford as director of the Legal Services Corp.

Under the second category—"faithful political partisans"—were listed Dean Burch, former chairman of the Republican National Committee, appointed by Nixon to head the Federal Communications Commission; Jerry Thomas, director of the Florida Conservative Union, named by Ford shortly after Florida primary to be undersecretary of the Treasury; former Rep. Charlotte T. Reid of Illinois, named an FCC commissioner by Nixon, and Warren Rudman, a former New Hampshire state attorney general who was named by Ford before this year's New Hampshire primary to be chairman of the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Under the third category—"out-of-favor White House aides"—were listed Margarita White, named from the Ford White House staff to the FCC; Jeb Stuart Magruder, named from the Nixon staff to the Commerce De-

partment; John Byington, named from the Ford staff to the Consumer Product Safety Commission; Alexander M. Haig Jr., named from the Ford staff to be NATO commander, and Peter M. Flanigan, named by Ford from the Nixon staff to be ambassador to Spain, although the nomination was later withdrawn.

Under the last category—"representatives of special interests"—were listed Robert Morris, a lawyer for Standard Oil named to the Federal Power Commission by Nixon, an appointment that was defeated in the Senate; Andrew Gibson, an oil executive, named to the Federal Energy Agency by Ford, an appointment that was withdrawn; Thomas Longshore, a utility executive, named by Ford to the Board of the Tennessee Valley Authority; and Melvin A. Conant, an oil executive, named by Ford to be assistant administrator of the energy agency.

Bush's name was noticed quickly because he was scheduled to give the second in a series of CIA briefings to Carter and Mondale the next day.

When he arrived in Plains Thursday, Bush was asked how he felt about being included on such a list and he said he would not let it interfere with his professional relationship with Carter and he did not want to inject himself into partisan politics.

Meanwhile, the reporter who originally had received the list had mentioned it casually to another reporter. This reporter asked the Carter staff why she had not been given a copy and, in due course, the list was photocopied by an assistant press secretary and distributed to all reporters.

Friday, when Carter was asked whether, on reflection, he thought it had been a good idea to include Bush on the list, he declared:

"I haven't listed anybody That was a serious mistake on some staff member's part, to reveal, I guess, an intrastaff memorandum. I've never seen any such memorandum. I've never discussed with any of my staff at any time the qualifications of George Bush."

"As a matter of fact, I happen to think a lot of George Bush I knew him when he was ambassador to the U.N. and I went there several times and I thought he did a good job And I've been impressed with the job he's done in giving me analyses as a CIA director and answers to very tough questions that I have posed."

"So I would not include George Bush among those who were appointed without qualifications just for political payoffs. Now, the origin of the memorandum is something that I have never heard about before, until I saw news reports this morning, but I think it was a mistake for an intrastaff memorandum that I have never seen to be distributed"